

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EA-06 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

/068 W

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R 010605Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5430

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 1032

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: SOVIET AMBASSADOR ON SOVIET FILM

REF: SANAA 1019

1. TOWARDS END OF APRIL 29 DINNER PARTY-RECEPTION FOR WORLD BANK  
PRESIDENT MACNAMARA, SOVIET AMBASSADOR VASIL I. KORNEV PURPOSEFULLY  
SOUGHT ME OUT TO INITIATE DISCUSSION CONCERNING SOVIET FILM SHOWING  
OF PREVIOUS WEEK (SEE REFTEL). IN RESPONSE TO HIS QUESTION CONCERNIN

MY OPINION OF THE FILM, I TOLD HIM THAT SOME OF THE CONTENTS DID NOT  
PRESENT WHAT I CONSIDERED TO BE A FACTUAL ACCOUNTING OF INTERNATIONAL  
EVENTS OVER THE LAST DECADE OR SO. WHEREUPON KORNEV WITH SEEMINGLY  
GENUINE EMOTION BEGAN A MONOLOGUE EMPHASIZING THAT THE FILM WAS A  
"GOOD DOCUMENTARY" WHOSE MAIN MESSAGE WAS TO SHOW US/USSR COOPERATION  
IN EFFORTS FOR PEACE. SEVERAL TIMES HE ASKED ME IF I NOTICED THE  
MANY SCENES SHOWING BREZHNEV AND PRESIDENT NIXON WORKING TOGETHER  
FOR DETENTE. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE WAS VERY SORRY THE FILM  
BROKE DOWN JUST AT THE POINT WHERE PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT TO  
VLADIVOSTOK WAS GOING TO BE SHOWN.

2. WHEN I POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT INTER ALIA THE FILM'S TREATMENT  
OF THE US ROLE IN VIET NAM WAS DISTORTED, AMBASSADOR KORNEV  
DESCRIBED THOSE SCENES AS MERELY "HISTORICAL". HE CONTINUED THAT IN  
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NO WAY DID THEY LESSEN THE IMPACT OF THE FILM'S MESSAGE WHICH WAS

THAT "IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY FOR THE US AND USSR TO WORK TOGETHER FOR PEACE". DROPPING HIS VOICE HE THEN INFORMED ME THAT THREE LOW-RANKING CHINESE EMBASSY GUESTS HAD WALKED OUT OF THE SHOWING WHEN IT WAS ANNOUNCED IN THE FILM THAT ONLY CHINA HAD REFUSED TO SIGN THE NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION TREATY. AMBASSADOR KORNEV CONTINUED BY SAYING THAT IT IS THIS NEGATIVE CHINESE ATTITUDE THAT REQUIRES THE US/USSR TO

WORK TOGETHER FOR PEACE.

3. I REPLIED THAT I AGREED IT IS NECESSARY FOR US/USSR TO COOPERATE FOR PEACE BUT POINTED OUT THAT THE "DOCUMENTARY" HAD PRESENTED AN INTERPRETATION OF RECENT HISTORY WITH WHICH I FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO AGREE ENTIRELY. THE AMBASSADOR AGAIN INTERRUPTED BY SAYING THAT THE IMPORTANT THING WAS TO FOCUS ON THE SCENES SHOWING US/USSR COOPERATION.

4. KORNEV DOUBTLESS REALIZED FROM MY COMMENTS TO HIM AFTER THE FILM SHOWING THAT I WAS NOT PARTICULARLY PLEASED AND WAS OBVIOUSLY TRYING TO MAKE SOME AMENDS. FROM HIS DEMEANOR AND EMPHASIS, I BELIEVE HE HONESTLY DID NOT SEE WHY THE FILM HAD BEEN SO OFFENSIVE. IN ANY CASE,

WE BOTH AGREED THAT IN THE FUTURE HE SHOULD ONLY INVITE ME TO FILMS OF FAMOUS RUSSIAN PLAYS LIKE EVGENI ONEGIN.  
SCOTES

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 01 MAY 1975  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, YE, UR, US, (KORNEV, VASIL I)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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